

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jim LaBarre on 9 February 2012 and further authorized by Jim LaBarre via e-mail on 5 March 2012 (See MPEP 1302.04).

The application has been amended as follows:

23. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable recording medium having a computer program recorded thereon that causes a computer to control a display device to display a user interface and at least two different images of a cursor within the displayed user interface, the computer program causing the computer to perform operations comprising:

displaying, in the user interface on the display device, a first image of the cursor, the first image of the cursor comprising a pointer arrow having a tail;

receiving a control input containing an instruction to drag at least one object displayed in the user interface on the display device;

controlling the display device to, upon receipt of the control input, switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a second image of the cursor in the

user interface, the second image of the cursor comprising a first hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow with a first variable graphic replacing the tail comprised in the first image;

controlling the display device to display, while the at least one object is being dragged, the first variable graphic in the user interface as an alphanumeric representation including a numerical value representing a characteristic of the at least one dragged object; and

in response to a user indication associated with the dragging, controlling the display device to, ~~while the at least one dragged object is being dragged over a destination object,~~ switch the display of the second image of the cursor to include alternative information different from the numerical value representing said characteristic of the at least one dragged object ~~a display of a third image of the cursor in the user interface, the third image of the cursor comprising a second hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow with a second variable graphic replacing the first variable graphic comprised in the second image, the second variable graphic including a graphical representation indicating whether an operation associated with the dragging of the at least one dragged object can be successfully performed based on the characteristic of the at least one dragged object.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 23, wherein the computer program causes the computer to perform further operations comprising:

determining when the first image of the cursor is positioned in the user interface over an object that is associated with an application in a busy state;

controlling the display device to switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor in the user interface, upon determining that the first image of the cursor is positioned over the user interface object associated with the application in the busy state, the ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor comprising a ~~third~~ second hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow and a ~~third~~ second variable graphic replacing the tail comprised in the first image of the cursor; and

controlling the display device to, while the cursor is positioned over the user interface object associated with the application in the busy state, display the ~~third~~ second variable graphic of the ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor as a representation of the busy state of the application in the busy state.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 23, wherein the computer program causes the computer to perform further operations comprising:

determining when the second image of the cursor is positioned in the user interface over a destination object to which the at least one dragged object is to be copied; and

controlling the display device to switch the display of the second image of the cursor to the display of ~~the~~ a third image of the cursor in the user interface, upon determining that the second image of the cursor is positioned over the destination object to which the at least one dragged object is to be copied,

wherein ~~the second variable graphic~~ of the third image of the cursor includes a graphic that represents a copy operation.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 26, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor has a first color, and the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor has a second color different from the first color.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 26, wherein the numerical value represented in the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor represents one of a number of objects contained in the at least one dragged object and a cumulative data size of the at least one dragged object.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 28, wherein the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor includes the numerical value.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 29, wherein the numerical value represented in the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor represents one of a number of objects being copied, and a cumulative data size of the number of objects being copied.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 23, wherein the numerical value indicates a number of objects contained in the at least one dragged object.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 23, wherein the numerical value indicates a cumulative size of the at least one dragged object.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 23, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor comprises a geometric object, and the size of the geometric object is dynamically varied to accommodate the numerical value.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable recording medium of claim 23, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor indicates that the at least one dragged object will be deleted.

35. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying a user interface and at least two different images of a cursor within the displayed user interface on a display device of a computer, comprising the steps of:

displaying, in the user interface on the display device, a first image of the cursor, the first image of the cursor comprising a pointer arrow having a tail;

receiving, from a control device connected to the computer, a control input containing an instruction to drag at least one object in the user interface displayed on the display device;

controlling the display device to, upon receipt of the control input, switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a second image of the cursor in the user interface, the second image of the cursor comprising a first hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow with a first variable graphic replacing the tail comprised in the first image of the cursor;

controlling the display device to display, while the at least one object is being dragged, the first variable graphic in the user interface as an alphanumeric representation including a numerical value representing a characteristic of the at least one dragged object; and

in response to a user indication associated with the dragging, controlling the display device to, ~~while the at least one dragged object is being dragged over a destination object,~~ switch the display of the second image of the cursor to include alternative information different from the numerical value representing said characteristic of the at least one dragged object ~~a display of a third image of the cursor in the user interface, the third image of the cursor comprising a second hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow with a second variable graphic replacing the first variable graphic comprised in the second image, the second variable graphic including a graphical representation indicating whether an operation associated with the dragging of the at least one dragged object can be successfully performed based on the characteristic of the at least one dragged object.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, comprising:

determining when the first image of the cursor is positioned in the user interface over an object that is associated with an application in a busy state;

controlling the display device to switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor in the user interface, upon determining that the first image of the cursor is positioned over the user interface object associated with the application in the busy state, the ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor comprising a ~~third~~ second hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow and a ~~third~~ second variable graphic replacing the tail comprised in the first image of the cursor; and

controlling the display device to, while the cursor is positioned over the user interface object associated with the application in the busy state, display the ~~third~~ second variable graphic of the ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor as a representation of the busy state of the application in the busy state.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

determining when the second image of the cursor is positioned in the user interface over a destination object to which the at least one dragged object is to be copied; and

controlling the display device to switch the display of the second image of the cursor to the display of ~~the a~~ a third image of the cursor in the user interface, upon

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determining that the second image of the cursor is positioned over the destination object to which the at least one dragged object is to be copied,

wherein ~~the second variable graphic of~~ the third image of the cursor includes a graphic that represents a copy operation.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor has a first color, and the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor has a second color different from the first color.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the numerical value represented in the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor represents one of a number of objects contained in the at least one dragged object and a cumulative data size of the at least one dragged object.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40, wherein the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor includes the numerical value.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41, wherein the numerical value represented in the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor represents one of a number of objects being copied, and a cumulative data size of the number of objects being copied.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the numerical value indicates a number of objects contained in the at least one dragged object.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the numerical value indicates a cumulative size of the at least one dragged object.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor comprises a geometric object, and wherein the method further includes the step of dynamically varying the size of the geometric object to accommodate the numerical value.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor indicates that the at least one dragged object will be deleted.

47. (Currently Amended) A method for displaying a user interface and at least two different images of a cursor within the displayed user interface on a display device of a computer, comprising the steps of:

displaying, in the user interface on the display device, a first image of the cursor;
receiving, from a control device connected to the computer, a control input containing an instruction to drag at least one object displayed in the user interface on the display device;

controlling the display device to, upon initiation of the dragging of the at least one object displayed in the user interface, switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a second image of the cursor in the user interface, the second image of the cursor comprising a first hybrid cursor having a portion of the first image of the cursor and a first variable graphic;

controlling the display device to display, while the at least one object is being dragged, the first variable graphic in the user interface as a symbol representation display including a numerical value representing a characteristic of the at least one dragged object; and

in response to a user indication associated with the dragging, controlling the display device to, ~~while the at least one dragged object is being dragged over a destination object in the user interface,~~ switch the display of the second image of the cursor to include alternative information different from the numerical value representing said characteristic of the at least one dragged object ~~a display of a third image of the cursor in the user interface, the third image of the cursor comprising a second hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow with a second variable graphic replacing the first variable graphic comprised in the second image, the second variable graphic including a graphical representation indicating whether an operation associated with the dragging of the at least one dragged object can be successfully performed based on the characteristic of the at least one dragged object.~~

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, comprising:

determining when the first image of the cursor is positioned in the user interface over an object that is associated with an application in a busy state;

controlling the display device to switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor in the user interface, upon determining that the first image of the cursor is positioned over the user interface object associated with the application in the busy state, the ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor comprising a ~~third~~ second hybrid cursor having a first portion of the first image of the cursor and a second variable graphic replacing a second portion of the first image of the cursor; and

controlling the display device to, while the cursor is positioned over the user interface object associated with the application in the busy state, display the ~~third~~ second variable graphic of the ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor as a representation of the busy state of the application in the busy state.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

determining when the second image of the cursor is positioned in the user interface over a destination object to which the at least one dragged object is to be copied; and

controlling the display device to switch the display of the second image of the cursor to the display of ~~the a~~ a third image of the cursor in the user interface, upon

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determining that the second image of the cursor is positioned over the destination object to which the at least one dragged object is to be copied, wherein the graphical representation in ~~the second variable graphic~~ of the third image of the cursor includes a graphic that represents a copy operation.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor has a first color, and the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor has a second color different from the first color.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor includes the numerical value represented in the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor, and wherein the numerical value represented in the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor represents one of a number of objects being copied and a cumulative data size of the number of objects being copied.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the numerical value represented in the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor represents one of a number of objects being copied and a cumulative data size of the number of objects being copied.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the numerical value indicates a number of objects contained in the at least one dragged object.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the numerical value indicates a cumulative size of the at least one dragged object.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor comprises a geometric object, and wherein the method further includes the step of dynamically varying the size of the geometric object to accommodate the quantitative value.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor indicates that the at least one dragged object will be deleted.

59. (Currently Amended) A computer processing device comprising:
a display unit configured to display a user interface and at least two different images of a cursor within the user interface;
a control unit configured to control the display unit to display a first image of the cursor within the user interface, the first image of the cursor comprising a pointer arrow having a tail; and

a receiving unit configured to receive an instruction input containing an instruction to drag at least one object displayed in the user interface on the display unit,

wherein the control unit is configured to control the display device to switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a second image of the cursor within the user interface, upon the receiving unit receiving the instruction input, the second image of the cursor comprising a first hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow with a first variable graphic replacing the tail comprised in the first image of the cursor,

wherein the control unit is configured to control the display device to display, while the at least one object is being dragged, the first variable graphic in the user interface as an alphanumeric representation including a numerical value representing a characteristic of the at least one dragged object, and

wherein, in response to a user indication associated with the drag operation, the control unit is configured to control the display device to, ~~while the at least one dragged object is being dragged over a destination object,~~ switch the display of the second image of the cursor to include alternative information different from the numerical value representing said characteristic of the at least one dragged object ~~a display of a third image of the cursor in the user interface, the third image of the cursor comprising a second hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow with a second variable graphic replacing the first variable graphic comprised in the second image, the second variable graphic including a graphical representation indicating whether an operation associated with the dragging of the at least one dragged object can be successfully performed based on the characteristic of the at least one dragged object.~~

60. (Currently Amended) The computer processing device of claim 59, wherein the control unit comprises a determining unit configured to determine when the first image of the cursor is positioned in the user interface over an object that is associated with an application in a busy state,

wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to switch the display of the first image of the cursor to a display of a ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor, upon the determining unit determining that the first image of the cursor is positioned over the object that is associated with the application in the busy state, the ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor comprising a ~~third~~ second hybrid cursor having a pointer arrow and a ~~third~~ second variable graphic replacing the tail comprised in the first image of the cursor, and

wherein the control unit is configured to control the display device to display, when the determining unit determines that the first image of the cursor is positioned over the object that is associated with the application in the busy state, the ~~third~~ second variable graphic of the ~~fourth~~ third image of the cursor as a representation of the busy state of the application in the busy state.

61. (Currently Amended) The computer processing device of claim 59, wherein the control unit comprises a determining unit configured to determine when the second image of the cursor is positioned in the user interface over a destination object to which the at least one dragged object is to be copied,

wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to switch the display of the second image of the cursor to a display of ~~the~~ a third image of the cursor, upon the determining unit determining that the second image of the cursor is positioned over the destination object to which the at least one dragged object is to be copied, and

wherein ~~the second variable graphic of~~ the third image of the cursor includes a graphic that represents a copy operation.

62. (Currently Amended) The computer processing device of claim 61, wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to display the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor to have a first color, and to display the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor to have a second color different from the first color.

63. (Currently Amended) The computer processing device of claim 61, wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to display the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor to include the numerical value represented in the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor,

wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to display the numerical value represented in the ~~second variable~~ graphic of the third image of the cursor as one of a number of objects being copied and a cumulative data size of the number of objects being copied.

64 - 65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously Presented) The computer processing device of claim 59, wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to display the numerical value to indicate a number of objects contained in the at least one dragged object.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer processing device of claim 59, wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to display the numerical value to indicate a cumulative data size of the at least one dragged object.

68. (Previously Presented) The computer processing device of claim 59, wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to display the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor to comprise a geometric object, and wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to dynamically vary the size of the geometric object to accommodate the numerical value.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer processing device of claim 59, wherein the control unit is configured to control the display unit to display the first variable graphic of the second image of the cursor to indicate that the at least one dragged object will be deleted.

70 - 85. (Canceled)

Summary Of The Prior Art Of Record

Malamud et al. (US 2003/0142123 A1) – Malamud discloses information cursors where information about a source object and about a target object in a drag and drop operation.

Muller (US 4,984,152) – Muller discloses a cursor area partitioned into two regions, namely a pointer region and an image region, where in the image region replaces the tail of the pointer.

Lecton et al. (US 5,801,698) – Providing dynamic information to the user which is unrelated to the application program during the display of a busy cursor.

Reasons For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 23 is allowable over the prior art of record, specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose:

in response to a user indication associated with the dragging, controlling the display device to switch the display of the second image of the cursor to include alternative

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information different from the numerical value representing said characteristic of the at least one dragged object.

Independent claim 35 is allowable over the prior art of record, specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose:

in response to a user indication associated with the dragging, controlling the display device to switch the display of the second image of the cursor to include alternative information different from the numerical value representing said characteristic of the at least one dragged object.

Independent claim 47 is allowable over the prior art of record, specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose.

in response to a user indication associated with the dragging, controlling the display device to switch the display of the second image of the cursor to include alternative information different from the numerical value representing said characteristic of the at least one dragged object.

Independent claim 59 is allowable over the prior art of record, specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose.

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in response to a user indication associated with the drag operation, the control unit is configured to control the display device to switch the display of the second image of the cursor to include alternative information different from the numerical value representing said characteristic of the at least one dragged object.

The respective dependent claims add further limitations to the allowable subject matter of the independent claims and are, therefore, allowable over the prior art of record. Specifically, the prior art fails to clearly teach or fairly suggest the combination of elements as recited in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN HEFFINGTON whose telephone number is (571)270-1696. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boris M. Pesin can be reached on 571-272-4070. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMH
3/12/2012
/Boris Pesin/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2172